

Remarks

Claims 1-26 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-7, 9-14, 19-22, and 25-26 have been amended to define more clearly the claimed invention. It is believed and intended that no new matter has been added by this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,407,497 issued October 4, 1983 to Geysa Gracie. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been mooted by the present amendments canceling Claim 1 and amending Claims 3 and 6 to depend upon allowable Claim 2.

II. Allowable subject matter

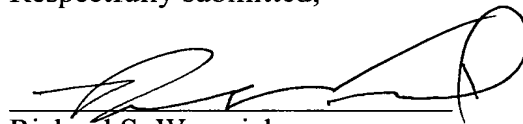
The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-26 contain allowable subject matter. The Applicant has complied with the Examiner's requirement that Claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-13 be rewritten in independent form. The Applicant has also corrected several minor typographical errors in Claims 2, 7, 9, and 14, for reasons unrelated to patentability. In addition, the Applicant has amended Claims 2, 4, 6-7, 9-10, 14, 19-22, and 25-26 to include limitations required by the Examiner in the Advisory Action of January 17, 2006.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application are believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 20-0090. Please also credit any overpayments to this Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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